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Kirkpatrick: He knew we drugged

New faces of 1953

Several congressional leaders are privately expressing "astonishment" and "outrage" about a *New York Times* account that President Carter seriously considered nominating Lyman Kirkpatrick for the post of Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. It was Kirkpatrick who, as the CIA's Inspector General from 1953 to 1961, suppressed the story behind the death of Army biochemist Frank Olson, the human guinea pig who plunged from a New York hotel window while on a CIA-induced acid trip. (Kirkpatrick has admitted that he might have recommended stronger disciplinary action against those CIA employees responsible.)

Kirkpatrick was also undisturbed by the massive illegal mail openings engaged in by the CIA during his tenure, and, in a piece on the *Times*' Op-Ed page more than four years ago, voiced his satisfaction with Congress' oversight of CIA activities. This was before the Agency's drug experiments, mail openings, burglaries and assassination plots were exposed by the Church and Pike committees. Inspector General Kirkpatrick presumably was aware of such abuses as they were occurring; the possibility of his ignorance of these events is hardly more comforting.

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